

***APPROVED MINUTES*** of the Special  
Meeting of the City Council of the City of Rye held  
in City Hall on December 24, 2019, at 2:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

JOSH COHN, Mayor  
JULIE SOUZA  
BENJAMIN STACKS  
DANIELLE TAGGER-EPSTEIN  
Councilmembers

**ABSENT:**

SARA GODDARD  
EMILY HURD  
RICHARD MECCA  
Councilmembers

Mayor Cohn called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Deputy Clerk Pietrosanti called the roll; a quorum was present to discuss official City business.

Mayor Cohn was pleased to announce the candidate for Rye City Court Part Time Judge, Valerie Livingston. Ms. Livingston, although currently in private practice, was the former Assistant District Attorney in the Rye Branch of the Westchester County Court System. Having worked for the District Attorney's Office for many years, Ms. Livingston is very familiar with the branch. She has lived in Rye for 30 years, having raised three children with her husband, Edward. Mayor Cohn said that he learned last week that there is a New York State judicial course given to new judges in January 2020, so this special meeting was necessary so she can attend.

Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein added that Ms. Livingston's credentials were very impressive. Councilwoman Tagger-Epstein said also that she did not get the chance to meet Ms. Livingston prior to the meeting or review other resumes. In closing, she stated that compassion and thoughtfulness and the ability to get along with staff and others makes for a great judge.

On Motion of Councilwoman Souza, seconded by Councilman Stacks, the following resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rye, New York:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING VALERIE A. LIVINGSTON AS RYE CITY  
COURT PART-TIME JUDGE**

**WHEREAS**, the current Rye City Court part-time judge's term is expiring on January 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Charter requires the Mayor to nominate, with Council approval, a part-time judge for a term of six (6) years; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Valerie A. Livingston be appointed Rye City Court Part-Time Judge for a six-year term commencing February 1, 2020 and expiring on January 31, 2026.

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: Mayor Cohn, Councilmembers Souza, Stacks, Tagger-Epstein

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmembers Goddard, Hurd and Mecca

Denise Cypher, Rye resident, addressed the Council. She expressed her general disappointment that Judge Cypher was not reappointed as part time judge. She provided examples of his good character as judge to the Council.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Stacks made a motion at 2:11 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Souza, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. D'Andrea  
City Clerk